

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

JS

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
BENJAMIN J. BARISH
G.E. EHRLICH (1995) LTD.
11 MENACHEM BEGIN STREET
RAMAT GAN, ISRAEL 52521

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

RECEIVED

05 MAR 2006

FILE No. 29185

G.E. EHRLICH (1995) LTD.

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

06 FEB 2006

(d)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
29185

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.
PCT/IL05/00254

International filing date
(day/month/year) 03 March 2005 (03.03.2005)

Applicant
OREN, RAN

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70.

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Reminders**

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Julian W. Woo

Telephone No. 571-272-2975

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 29185	FOR FURTHER ACTION <small>see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</small>	
International application No. PCT/IL05/00254	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 03 March 2005 (03.03.2005)	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 04 March 2004 (04.03.2004)
Applicant OREN, RAN		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 2 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the Report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:



the international application in the language in which it was filed.



a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (See Box No. III)

4. With regard to the **title**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 7



as suggested by the applicant.



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL05/00254

Box IV TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

An implement for manipulating a knotted suture (150) during a surgical procedure, includes an elongated shaft (130) having a proximal end engageable by the user for manipulating the instrument, and a distal end engageable with the knotted suture (150) to be manipulated. The distal end (132) of the elongated shaft (13) has an end face (134) formed with a recess (135) for receiving the knot (151) of the suture. The distal end (132) of the elongated shaft (130) is formed with an open slot (133) starting from a location spaced from the end face (134) and leading to the recess (135) in the end face, such as to enable the knotted suture (150) to be introduced into the slot (133) and the recess (135) by effecting a sidewise movement. The implement further includes a tubular cutter member (120) enclosing the elongated shaft (130) and formed with an annular cutting edge (122) engageable with a suture in the open slot (133) of the shaft (130) upon movement of the elongated shaft (130) with respect to the tubular cutter member (120), or by vice-versa.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL05/00254

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/04

US CL : 606/148

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/138, 139, 144, 148; 289/13, 17

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,397,326 A (MANGUM) 14 March 1995 (14.03.1995), See figure 10.	1,2
X	US 5,797,929 A (ANDREAS et al.) 25 August 1998 (25.08.1998), See figures 1, 3, and 4.	1,9
A	US 5,292,327 A (DODD et al.) 08 March 1994 (08.03.1994), See figure 2.	1-20
A	US 5,423,837 A (MERICLE et al) 13 June 1995 (13.06.1995), See figures 4 and 5.	1-20
A	US 5,395,382 A (DIGIOVANNI et al.) 07 March 1995 (07.03.1995), See figures 1 and 3.	1-20
A	US Des. 386,583 S (FERRAGAMO et al.) 18 November 1997 (18.11.1997), See the figures.	1-20
A	US 6,488,690 B1 (MORRIS et al.) 03 December 2002 (03.12.2002), see figures 1 and 2.	1-20

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 January 2006 (25.01.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report

06 FEB 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Julian W. Woo

Telephone No. 571-272-2975

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IL05/00254

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
EAST
search terms: knot, slot, push, pusher, notch, cutter

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
BENJAMIN J. BARISH
G.E. EHRLICH (1995) LTD.
11 MENACHEM BEGIN STREET
RAMAT GAN, ISRAEL 52 521

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 06 FEB 2006	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 29185	
FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/IL05/00254	International filing date (day/month/year) 03 March 2005 (03.03.2005)
Priority date (day/month/year) 04 March 2004 (04.03.2004)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): A61B 17/04 and US Cl.: 606/148	
Applicant OREN, RAN	

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

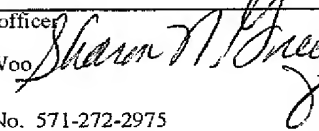
2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Date of completion of this opinion 01 February 2006 (01.02.2006)	Authorized officer Julian W. Woo  Telephone No. 571-272-2975
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Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (April 2005)

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/IL05/00254

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IL05/00254

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis. 1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>3-8, 10-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1, 2, 9</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>3-8 and 10-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1, 2, 9</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1 and 2 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Mangum (5,397,326). Mangum discloses, at least in figure 10, an implement for manipulating a knotted suture, where the implement includes an elongated shaft (402) and a distal end of the elongated shaft having an end face formed with a recess (between 412 and 422), the distal end being formed with an open slot (440) starting from a location spaced from the end face and leading to the recess, where the open slot is formed of a width to accommodate a wide range of suture sizes and materials.

Claims 1 and 9 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Andreas et al. (5,797,929). Andreas et al. disclose, at least in figures 1, 3, and 4, an implement for manipulating a knotted suture, where the implement includes an elongated shaft (12) and a distal end (22) of the elongated shaft having an end face formed with a recess (40), the distal end being formed with an open slot (42) starting from a location spaced from the end face and leading to the recess, where the distal end is of increased outer diameter.

Claims 3-8 and 10-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest an implement for manipulating a knotted suture, where the implement includes, inter alia, an elongated shaft and a distal end of the elongated shaft having an end face formed with a recess, the distal end being formed with an open slot starting from a location spaced from the end face and leading to the recess, where the open slot is formed with a first section leading from the recess towards the proximal end of the elongated shaft, and a second section leading from a juncture with the first section towards the distal end of the elongated shaft but terminating short of the end face, and where a tubular cutter encloses the elongated shaft.

Claims 1-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus an implement for manipulating a knotted suture has industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under Article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article," "Rule" and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended ?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When ? Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments ?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How ? Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments ?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.